

From: Miles, Amanda [miles.amanda@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/22/2019 2:53:37 PM
To: Matlock, Dennis [Matlock.Dennis@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Media Response needs HQ approval - Wheeling Intelligencer - Paden City water

Hi Dennis,

Do you think a public meeting, door to door outreach, or a factsheet would be helpful at this time? If state or local government does plan a meeting, I could come out to attend as well. The articles below highlight this sort of outreach as a priority. Let me know what you think or if you've heard of anything in the early planning stages.

-Amanda

WETZEL CHRONICLE

"Blown Out Of Proportion" Mayor Says Contamination Is Not At Dangerous Level Mayor Clyde Hochstrasser believes the issue of Paden City's water contamination is being "blown out of proportion." The news of the contamination, by a chemical called Tetrachloroethylene (TCE) - also known as tetrachloroethene (TCE) or perchloroethylene (PCE) - was first brought to the public's attention through the March 4 Paden City Council meeting. Then, Mayor Hochstrasser read a letter from the city regarding a contamination occurrence in the Paden City ground water supply. The letter stated, "Our monitoring has shown an average PCE concentration in the drinking water supply for 2018 of 5.5 parts per billion (ppb), which is in excess of the USEPA's Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL) of 5.0 ppb. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health has issued us a formal Notice of Violation for exceeding the MCL for PCE." Last week Mayor Hochstrasser said while the issue is being treated seriously, the contamination is not at dangerous levels, and work is being done to eradicate it from the water. He said because the city is 0.5 parts per billion (ppb) over the MCL, the state requires quarterly testing. However, Hochstrasser said, Paden City has been testing the water each month to ascertain if the water is safe to be used by town residents. Hochstrasser said testing will continue, and safeguards are in place as the city works to reduce the contamination... In a recent interview, Lew Baker, sourcewater specialist with the West Virginia Rural Water Association, likened the danger presented by the PCE in Paden City's drinking water to "driving 55 mph in a 50 zone." "It's not necessarily a huge increase and risk," Baker said. "There's not really any extra steps (residents) should take. I wouldn't." However, DEP spokesman Terry Fletcher referenced the above-mentioned risks referenced by the ATSDR, noting "PCE is likely carcinogenic to humans." "The EPA plans to conduct additional phases of (evaluation) to better characterize local groundwater movement and the extent of contamination, as well as evaluate additional potential sources," Fletcher said...

Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity Numerical values aside, the fact remains that Paden City's drinking water contains an excess of a dry cleaning chemical considered by the EPA to be "most likely carcinogenic to humans." However, when considering the numbers, it is argued that someone's odds of getting cancer from PCE in their drinking water would increase by one in 1 million if they consumed 17 parts per billion of the chemical over a lifetime, according to the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Furthermore, the concentration of PCE in Paden City's water supply is 5.5 parts per billion. The maximum allowable contaminant level for the chemical set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is 5 parts per billion. Paden City residents have been given these facts though, over and over. If they didn't attend the March 4 council meeting, when a letter was read by Mayor Clyde Hochstrasser stating the above-mentioned information, then they might have heard such from someone who did attend the council meeting. Or, perhaps they read the story when the Wetzel Chronicle released our news coverage from the meeting on our website that week. Or, perhaps they read the information the following week when each Paden City water customer received a memo-type correspondence, without a date or signature, stating the information. The news then broke regional, and

even nationwide. Still, we feel that Paden City residents are looking for more. Browsing social media, and the comments in response to this news story, we can confidently state that residents ARE looking for more than just an impersonal letter or the repetition of information from governmental agencies. Is that water safe to drink? Is the water safe to use for bathing? Are children at a higher risk of ill affects from drinking water contaminated with PCE? What about pets? Do animals have a different reaction to drinking water contaminated with PCE? Why were residents informed about this in March, when it's been reported that the city found contamination at one of its wells about six months ago? We recommend a town meeting which includes representatives from the local, state, and federal levels. We recommend complete transparency and clarity. The people of Paden City deserve this.

WTOV-TV STEUBANVILLE, OHIO

Paden City officials, residents working to combat contaminated water (Video link) (3-18) Paden City residents are worried about drinking their water after receiving a notice that the city's water system is contaminated. "I haven't drank the water here in over a year," said resident Angel Hickman. "Bottled water and everything." "You can't live like this," said resident Ramona Mowder. A letter was sent out by the city saying that the water supply was contaminated with tetrachloroethylene, or PCE. "Our readings came back higher than what the state levels allow," said Paden City Mayor Clyde Hochstrasser. "The state level is 5, and our readings were 5.5." The chemical is used for dry cleaning and metal de-greasing purposes. According to Hochstrasser, the EPA says that the PCE likely came from area dry cleaners. One location they found high PCE levels was the former Band Box Cleaners, which has been closed for years. "The PCE has gone down through the ground and into our water tables and contaminated our aquifer," Hochstrasser said. The city's water system is complicated, and they are looking for outside funds. Hochstrasser says the wells haven't been cleaned in 16 years, with only one out of four working. The water plant uses air strippers to clear contaminants, but Hochstrasser says that right now only one is working. Even if they are all fixed, it is not believed that the current system can flush out the PCE, unless the stripper system is replaced. Thrasher Engineering suggests switching to a 6-tray system. "We're always going to have these contaminants in the water," Hochstrasser said. "We just have to have the proper equipment to take it out of the water source." City officials aren't able to tell the community if the water is safe enough to drink or not. Residents have reported mixed problems with the water over the years, some saying that it has irritated their skin, tasted strange, or was discolored at times. Hochstrasser says, though, that the chemical is only noticeable when tested. The city is working with West Virginia Rural Water, US EPA, WV EPA and West Virginia Bureau of Public Health on this issue. "I don't think that anybody is looking to point fingers at anybody or anything like that," said resident Kenneth Powell Jr. "We're looking for a solution and transparency." Many residents are asking for a public meeting to be held so everyone can be on the same page about all of this. Mayor Hochstrasser says he believes one will be held in the future.

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Superfund Community Involvement & Outreach Branch
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From: Seneca, Roy
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>
Cc: Miles, Amanda <miles.amanda@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Response needs HQ approval - Wheeling Intelligencer - Paden City water

From today's clips...

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WTRF-TV WHEELING

Three Paden City water sources contaminated (March 17) PADEN CITY, W. Va (WTRF) - Residents in Paden City, Wetzel County are no longer using the city's water. According to test results by the West Virginia Environmental Protection Agency, the water is contaminated with a chemical substance commonly used at dry cleaners. The Paden City Water Department which services nearly 1300 customers is contaminated with the chemical, perchloroethylene (PCE) is a solvent used for degreasing. "We had a dry cleaner facility in our town that discharged chemicals into our drains and it leaked into our drain system and into the ground and into our groundwater," said Clyde Hochstrasser, Mayor, Paden City. According to Hochstrasser, the water first tested positive for PCE in 2010. The city has been able to keep the situation at bay through air stripping machines which help oxidize the chemical. The city has also maintained the water contamination by using additional wells. Paden City sources their water from four wells. Three of those wells are now contaminated. The mayor also said the city is struggling to come up with the funds to continue fighting the contamination. Thrasher Engineering, a company working closely with the city to resolve the problem told Mayor Hochstrasser the system the city would need to implement to solve the issue would cost around \$240 thousand. Hochstrasser said the city can't afford this system on their own. In pursuit of financial assistance, the mayor has been in contact with a number of government agencies "the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health, the U.S. EPA and the West Virginia EPA," said Hochstrasser. Hochstrasser said representatives from Thrasher are currently in Charleston speaking with officials about the Paden City water contamination.

From: Howell, Amie

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 10:53 AM

To: Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>; Koffi, LaRonda <Koffi.LaRonda@epa.gov>

Cc: Miles, Amanda <miles.amanda@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Media Response needs HQ approval - Wheeling Intelligencer - Paden City water

Thanks, Roy. Amanda Miles was just assigned yesterday to be the CIC to support as needed. Please keep her in the loop.

Amie Howell
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Hazardous Site Cleanup Division
U.S. EPA Region 3
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Phone: (215) 814-5722
e-mail: howell.amie@epa.gov

From: Seneca, Roy
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Koffi, LaRonda <Koffi.LaRonda@epa.gov>; Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Media Response needs HQ approval - Wheeling Intelligencer - Paden City water

LaRonda and Amie – FYI. I coordinated with Dennis Matlock to get these questions answered this morning. I have NOT sent them to the reporter since we are still awaiting HQ approval. However, they were shared with Cosmo, who is in West Virginia this morning.

From: Seneca, Roy
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 9:06 AM
To: White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>
Cc: Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>
Subject: Media Response needs HQ approval - Wheeling Intelligencer - Paden City water

Reporter: Alex Meyer from the Wheeling Intelligencer ameyer@theintelligencer.net
Inquiry: Reporter has questions concerning EPA's role to address groundwater contamination in Paden City.

Question 1: Could you explain what work the EPA has done in Paden City so far?

EPA Response: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Question 2: What steps need to be taken moving forward?

EPA Response: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Question 3: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

EPA Response: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)